

SUPPORT TO EI Alto

Through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Government has a broad assistance program in Bolivia that supports the Bolivian Government's National Development Plan.



Ambassador Goldberg celebrates Children's Day in El Alto with students benefiting El Alto's School Feeding Program. The school feeding program is a USAID-supported alliance between fruit producers and municipal governments. Currently, producers from the Yungas and the Tropics of Cochabamba sell their fruit to nine municipalities, reaching more than 600,000 students. In addition to providing a sustainable source of income for rural families and better nutrition for Bolivian children, the school feeding program improves the quality of education by improving school attendance and lengthening children's attention span.

Through its official foreign assistance agency, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Government supports over 200 projects in El Alto costing over 200 million dollars. These projects seek to reduce poverty through economic growth generated by enterprise development and increased productivity, strengthen democratic processes and institutions for improved governance, and improve health among the population. USAID programs create opportunities for marginalized populations while promoting their social, political, and economic inclusion.

1. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE POPULATION

Since 2006, USAID has supported artisans of El Alto to improve their handicrafts, develop greater market competitiveness, and access export markets. In addition, USAID supports, in conjunction with the Catholic University and the Bolivian Private University, a vocational training program for small businesses.

2. IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF BOLIVIANS

In a unique collaboration, USAID supports the development of organizations such as PROSALUD, the largest private health service network in Bolivia, and CIES, whose presence in El Alto constitutes an important commitment to the attention of health issues in peri-urban and low-income areas. Further projects in this area include support to the health community initiatives through the PROCOSI network and Partners for Development Program.

3. ACCESS TO JUSTICE

USAID supports a comprehensive program that works with the Government of Bolivia to strengthen democratic institutions and improve the administration of justice. As part of this program, USAID, in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice and the Judicial Branch, has supported the establishment and operation of six Integrated Justice Centers in the city of El Alto since 2004. Additionally, USAID worked with the District Attorney's Office to establish a customer reception area in El Alto. This support is aimed at increasing the efficiency of justice services, mitigating delays in the administration of justice, and providing improved access to justice services for Bolivian citizens.

4. DEMOCRATIC INITIATIVES

USAID supports many projects in El Alto with the goal of democracy promotion, such as training in leadership and employment development aimed at reducing social tension in conflictive areas, infrastructure improvement in public schools, certification and registration of undocumented citizens, promotion of information,



A view of one of many projects completed in El Alto through USAID's Food For Work Program



Ambassador Goldberg visits with participants in the USAID sponsored Food For Work Program in El Alto.

communication, and dialogue on issues of general concern in coordination with civil society organizations and the Bolivian Government, the expansion of a secondary gas network for five districts and a potable water system for district 8, and civic education and leadership training carried out in partnerships with social, junior, and indigenous organizations.

4. FOOD SECURITY

USAID's Title II Program supports local development and health care initiatives in areas of major food insecurity in Bolivia. In peri-urban and rural areas, USAID supports, through a food-for-work system, the construction of basic sanitary systems, community agricultural production and the management of natural resources. In addition, child nutrition and maternal-child health receive special attention and close monitoring. In 2006, approximately 13,000 temporary jobs were created in El Alto to complete community initiatives for neighborhood infrastructure.



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